
COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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PRESS RELEASE
2971st Council Meeting
General Affairs and External Relations
External Relations
Brussels, 27 October 2009
President: **Mr. Carl BILDT**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Items debated

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MIDDLE EAST

Following a briefing by High Representative Javier Solana on his recent visit to the region, the Council held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East.

The Council focused its discussion on the political situation, the situation on the ground and a possible EU contribution to implementation of a future peace agreement in the Middle East.

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

Temporary reception of certain Palestinians

The Council adopted a common position extending for one year the validity of national permits allowing Palestinians evacuated from Bethlehem following the siege of the Church of the Nativity by Israeli forces in 2002 to stay in the EU ([13984/09](#)).

This decision follows an assessment of implementation of common position 2002/400/CFSP.

For more information see press release [9017/02](#).

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